

PROPOSED BRUNSWICK COUNTY RURAL SEWER PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The County understands the importance of properly designed and properly functioning wastewater treatment and disposal systems. The County also recognizes that gravity sewer service is not available in many areas of the County and the lack of sewer service creates a hardship for many property owners.

The purpose of the Brunswick County Rural Sewer Program is to eliminate failing septic tanks and provide sewer service to existing lots of record that would not otherwise have sewer service. The program is **not** intended to provide sewer service to new subdivisions and new development. The developer is still responsible for providing sewer service to those developments according to the County's existing ordinances and policies.

APPLICABILITY:

The Rural Sewer Program is intended to serve all homes and commercial establishments that exist on the date of approval of this policy on roads with a sanitary sewer force main constructed within the road right-of-way or an easement immediately adjacent to the road right-of-way. New single family homes and new commercial development constructed on lots of record as of the approval date of this policy on roads with a sanitary sewer force main constructed within the road right-of-way or an easement immediately adjacent to the road right-of-way would also be able to connect to the sanitary sewer force main. The Rural Sewer Program is not intended to provide service to new lots being subdivided for development. If a property owner subdivides an existing lot of record into six (6) or fewer lots and all lots have frontage along the road with the sewer force, the new lots would be able to receive sewer service under this program.

The existing or proposed structure must be connected to the County water system if available. If water is available and the structure is not connected, the property owner must agree to connect to the County water system and pay all applicable fees before sewer service is initiated. If water service is not available, the property owner shall agree to have a meter installed on their well to measure the sewer flow.

POLICY:

Under the Rural Sewer Program, the County will allow connection of single family homes and commercial establishments to existing sewer force mains located in road rights-of-way or in County easements immediately adjacent to the road right-of-way. The property owners must meet the requirements outlined in this policy and pay all applicable fees.

Where sewer is available under the Rural Sewer Program, sewer is deemed to be reasonably available as defined under the County's Sewer Policy and the County Health Department should not issue new septic tank permits to those lots. However, the County will not charge an availability charge to the existing property owners along roads with a sewer force main constructed within its right-of-way.

Where access to the County water system is available, property owners must be connected to the County water system so the amount of sewer can be billed based upon actual use. Where access to the County water system is not available, the property owner must agree to have a meter installed on their well and have the sewer charges based upon flow from the well to the house. Where a meter cannot be installed on the well, the Director of Public Utilities may estimate the flow to be generated by the particular use and establish a flat rate for the sewer service charge.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Board of County Commissioners shall establish the fees and charges associated with the Rural Sewer Program on a regular basis. The fees and charges shall be established by ordinance and published along with the other water and sewer fees and charges.
2. To receive service under this program, the single family home property owner must make application to the County for sewer service and must meet all of the requirements for the program including lot location and type of service. The Engineering Department shall review the application to make sure that it meets the requirements of this program.
3. If the application meets the requirements of the program, the single family home property owner would be notified and the property owner would be provided the total amount of fees that must be paid and a copy of a blanket easement form for placement of the sewer pump station and the force main.
4. Upon payment of the fees and the execution of the easement, the Public Utility staff would meet with the property owner to determine the exact location of the pump station and electrical controls.
5. The Public Utility staff would then apply for NC DENR construction permit for installation of the sewer pump station.
6. Upon receipt of the NC DENR authorization to construct, the Public Utility staff would then schedule the work to be done and provide the property with an estimated date of installation.
7. The property owner is responsible for hiring a properly licensed electrician to provide a power source from the house to the proposed location of the sewer pump station. The cost of providing electricity to the pump station and the monthly electrical charges associated with operation of the station are the responsibility of the property owner.
8. To receive service under this program, commercial property owners must make application to the County for sewer service and must meet all of the requirements for the program lot location and type of service. The Engineering Department shall review the application to make sure that it meets the requirements of this program.
9. If the application meets the requirements of the program, the commercial property owner would be notified and the property owner would be provided the total amount of fees that must be paid.

10. Upon payment of the fees and the execution of the easement, the Public Utility staff would meet with the property owner to determine the exact location of the sewer tap. The commercial property owner would be responsible for hiring an engineering firm to prepare the drawings and NC DENR permit application necessary to install the pump station. Upon receipt of the NC DENR permit, the commercial property owner could install the duplex pump station. The duplex station must meet the minimum requirements of the County. The property owner is responsible for hiring a properly licensed electrician to provide a power source from the building being served to the proposed location of the sewer pump station. The cost of providing electricity to the pump station and the monthly electrical charges associated with operation of the station are the responsibility of the property owner.
11. To minimize the number of connections to the major transmission mains, connections to major transmission mains must be spaced at least 1,000 feet apart. Where a property owner desires connection to the main closer than 1,000 feet from the nearest tap, a smaller force main shall be run to the nearest tap.
12. The individual pump station shall be designed in such a manner to hold at least 200 gallons and be able to pump against a head condition of at least 200 feet.
13. As new force mains are constructed within road rights-of-way, the County will notify the existing property owners who adjoin the road right-of-way that sewer service under this program is now available.
14. Once the individual pump stations are installed, the property owner responsibilities for operation and maintenance shall be the same as the other properties served by individual pump stations installed under other programs.
15. If the property is not connected to the County's water system and water is available, the property owner must make application and connect to the County water system prior to installation of the individual pump stations. If County water is not available, the property owner must pay to have a meter installed on their well. The meter on the line from the well will be installed at the same time as the installation of the individual pump station.
16. The County will install up to 100 feet of sewer service main from the individual unit to the sewer force main in the road. The property owner must pay for all sewer service main in excess of 100 feet.
17. Properties connected under this program shall pay the same base rate and sewer service charges as other customers connected to the County sewer system.
18. Under the Rural Sewer Program Policy of Brunswick County, commercial and residential new structure owners must pay all application fees, capital recovery fees, transmission fees, and grinder pump installation costs associated with connection to the sewer system at the time of application for service. Property owners of existing residential structures must pay all application fees, capital recovery fees, and transmission line fees at the time of application for sewer service. Property owners of existing residential structures may elect to finance the grinder pump and installation for a period not to exceed 24 months with no interest being charged to the property owner. Failure to pay the monthly charges would result in the discontinuance of water and/or sewer service.